

Big Rider, Queer Indian, Died in Obscurity, But Left Some Valuable Land

TAHLEQUAH, Oct. 1.—During his lifetime Big Rider was a personage of no special claim to distinction. In fact, he could not have explained what distinction meant. His chief claim to remembrance at this day is that he was super-probationer abominably. Also he often went barefooted when the weather was chill and frosty. Years ago he was often seen in Tahlequah, and when he was using paroled at political meetings he assisted at the scaffold. With a long pointed stick in hand he would turn the big pieces of meat so that a hungry dog could get at them. It was a hungry dog that happened along, looking about, seeking a portion of the meat, then Big Rider would turn from him and fetch the intended canine a whack across the back with the stick and when the dog ran yelping away would resume his occupation. Big Rider was somewhat weak in the head, it was said, and did some queer things. On one occasion when a man had been found dead with indications that he had been killed, Big Rider, probably thinking to appear as a merry Indian, asserted that he had slain his countryman.

As a consequence he was soon taken into custody, charged with murder, but it soon developed that he was merely "spoofing" and his chain was forthwith unlocked from his leg and he was allowed to go in peace, acquitted of the charge which had been lodged against him. Years rolled by and Rider remained in the flesh but from all appearances was no older than he had ever been. His hair remained black and his countenance full and round. From his various places of abode—he seems to have stayed wherever night overtook him—out in the Fourteen Mile creek neighborhood, he continued to make trips to Tahlequah. Often he would stand for an hour or so at a time beside some building, simply looking around and saying nothing unless someone spoke to him, but he appeared to derive satisfaction from so standing and gazing and the sun had vanished behind the hills and forests in the west he would depart on his return to the "creek" unless he had become possessed of a notion to stay overnight with some acquaintance in or near town.

Other years passed away and one day Big Rider, who had long been immune to the bite of the flesh fly, grew no better fast, and eventually died. He was buried out in the neighborhood where he had lived the most of his lifetime and after awhile was practically forgotten, but somewhat recently his name has often been mentioned. Inquiries have been made as to who were his nearest relatives, for it seems that Big Rider had an allotment of land, though he probably never cared whether he had as much as an acre. But somebody would like to have the land for a good title, cannot be secured until it is proved conclusively who may be entitled to receive the same through the law of descent of property. Some even doubt whether his name was placed on the roll, and state that several Riders whose names appear upon the final rolls of Cherokee citizens, are in no wise related to Big Rider of protuberant memory.

more, and that he does not risk his degree on the question he answered to prove his intelligence. The reply that Lloyd George was king of Ireland lacked something in seriousness. We'd guess that the boy's name was Ryan. College men frequently receive these probes into their antics with levity. They have some fun in joshing the investigators and do not care whether they register the college man's as illiterate or not.

In spite of this drawback to the effectiveness of the questioning, we are quite willing to concede the probability that the college student is not as much in touch with the world as he might be to his own advantage and to the advantage of the country. The factors involved make that probable and middle aged men who recollect their own academic involvement in college days with the outside world was found in the sporting and dramatic columns of the newspaper.

The American college has been a cloister. It was more nearly closed when the emphasis was on what the college authorities called the classical course. Science has a contact with the world today which the study of languages, literature, and art did not have.

The student studying the humanities and the arts was not brought into current events, partly because his instructor as a rule lived in a cloister himself, and partly because the student in his re-occupations had no taste for the events of his day. He might either cultivate, or be cultivated into, an attitude of disdain. A student who is being told that Addison was the great master of English has indifference if not contempt for the moderns. It is a natural consequence of certain methods of instruction, but that does not prove that the methods are wise.

We are certain that the study of current events could be given more attention than it receives in many schools, and could increase the value of the college graduate as a citizen. There could be developed a mental quality which is necessary to the forming of intelligent opinion, the quality of consecutiveness in observation of events. Lack of this quality in the reading of many American newspapers is substantiated by the sequence of facts in the case.

The sense of continuity and consecutiveness protects a person from the assumption that today had no yesterday. A great deal of dangerous optimism has no other foothold than this assumption. It is an optimism which confronts realities with ideas. The individual considers himself too important to permit the continued operation of forces which have operated consistently in the past. It is the most natural piece of human optimism for the individual to believe that his entrance into the world changed it.

Sharks Serve Many Human Needs

VICTORIA, B. C.—Sharks in the waters along the British Columbia coast are to be turned into leather, oil, fertilizer, jewelry, and finally dollars, according to plans of Sidney Hux, head of the Consolidated Whaling company, who has resigned to launch the new industry, and the reducing plant will be erected on the Alberni canal.

Shark fishing, like whaling, is to be carried on along the west coast of Vancouver island, where, Mr. Hux says examination has shown that the huge sun sharks, some of them weighing 2,000 pounds, race up and down in schools of thousands. Recently one of the coasting steamers reported running into a solid mass of these big fellows.

Fishing for the sharks will be carried on after the fashion of whaling with harpoons shot from guns.

Livers of some of the big sun sharks, which are 40 to 65 per cent oil, yield up to 20 gallons of the finest shark oil. It is used for medicinal purpose and lubrication of delicate mechanisms. Livers of the smaller mud sharks, found in the waters between the island and the mainland, yield about ten gallons of oil.

Teeth of sharks are in great demand for the manufacture of necklaces. It is stated, owing to a new fad in neck ornament which recently developed. The fins are almost pure gelatine. They are cured and sold for trinkets, who use them in preparation of table delicacies.

Membranes and intestines are saved into gloves, glue and gut. Blood and flesh into chicken food and fertilizers. The head is a solid mass of cartilage glue.



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